



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
February 25, 2002

Assessment for Learning

Looking for Test Coordinator Information?

It's online: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment/index.html>

Check these out:

- Montana Guide for Test Coordinators and Test Administrators
- Tips for Test Administration
- Assessment Handbook, Volume 3
- Alternate Assessment Scales (grade 4, 8, and 11)

2002 Statewide Test Administration Training

During the week of February 4, over 400 test coordinators and special education directors attended training sessions for the administration of the 2002 statewide Iowa Tests. Thank you for your great response. Those who attended the training are asked to complete the questionnaire that is posted online. The questionnaire is with the test coordinator information: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment/index.html>. Thank you.

Test Coordinator Assistance

The *Montana Guide* lists contacts on page 11. The list describes question types and who can best address those questions quickly.



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
www.opi.state.mt.us

Trailer Packages and Materials Have Been Shipped to Districts

If you haven't received these, please contact Riverside (Jennifer Boyd: Jennifer_boyd@hmco.com; 800-323-9540x7085).

Coding for Gifted and Talented Detailed

The Administrative Rules of Montana provide flexibility to districts in defining and identifying gifted learners locally according to a locally developed philosophy and identification process. For ITBS/ITED tests for gifted learners, districts should code students' tests according to those identified using multiple measures consistent with their local philosophy and identification process. Districts should code the answer documents after students have taken the tests.

For more information, please consult "Information for Test Coordinators"—"Tips for Test Administration" online: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment/index.html>

OR contact

Kathy Mollohan

Phone: (406)444-4317

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OR

Michael Hall

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Update

What's New in 2002 Statewide Test Administration?

(For more details, refer to the *Montana Guide* and "Tips" online: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment/index.html>.)

1. Coding for gifted and talented and Title I Language and Math.
2. Nonstandard accommodations and alternate assessments: Any student taking the Iowa Tests with a nonstandard accommodation needs to have the alternate assessment scale for that subject administered. This includes Braille.
3. Coding clarification for ELL, MG, Other 1 and Other 2
4. No student questionnaire will be administered this year.

Reminders for 2002 Statewide Test Administration!

(For more details, refer to the *Montana Guide* and "Tips" online: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment/index.html>.)

1. The answer document is an off-the-shelf product and not customized for Montana; therefore, some

directions do not apply to Montana students.

Race/ethnicity: The answer document directions advise students to bubble "all that apply." **Montana needs just one bubbled.** Refer to the *Montana Guide* for a full explanation.

Calculator Use: The answer document has bubbles for with and without a calculator (and IOWA directions refer to calculators), but the **only** time a Montana student may use a calculator is when it is specified in an active IEP or 504 Plan. In those cases, it is a standard accommodation for **math concepts or problem solving only**. If calculator use is specified in an active IEP or 504 for **computation or estimation**, it is a non standard accommodation. In that case, the Alternate Assessment Scale also needs to be administered for math.

2. **Absences:** Please make every attempt to provide make-up sessions within the test window. Every student, absent or not, must have an answer document submitted.
3. ELL and LEP are used interchangeably (ELL is on the answer document).
4. School codes for Targeted Assistance Schools were not in the addendum of the draft *Guide*, but they are in the final copy, pages 16-18.

Board of Public Education Assessment Advisory Committee Meets

The Board of Public Education's ad hoc Assessment Advisory Committee convened on February 13 to organize and establish guidelines. The purpose of the committee includes preparing statewide assessment recommendations to the Board of Public Education. Members of this committee are listed below:

Rhonda Boyd	Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, K-12, Billings Public Schools
Josephine Corcoran	Principal, Rocky Boy
Dottie Donovan	Beaverhead County Superintendent

Diane Fladmo	BPE Assessment Liaison
Judy Gosnell-Lamb	Director, Big Sky Cooperative
Earline Lawrence	Counselor, Jordan Schools
Bob McKean	Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Missoula Public Schools
Glen Monson	Superintendent, Glasgow Public Schools
Claudette Morton	Executive Director, Montana Small Schools Alliance
Dori Nielson	Consultant/Researcher
Doug Reisig	Superintendent, Hellgate Elementary
Tom Rogers	Education Accountability Administrator, OPI
Fred Seidensticker	Director, Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative
Judy Snow	State Assessment Director, OPI
Mike Williams	Superintendent, Lame Deer Public Schools
Lonnie Yingst	Assistant Superintendent, Elementary, Great Falls Public Schools
Robin Zeal	Teacher, Whitefish Public Schools

Superintendent Linda McCulloch Addresses 2002-2003 Test Funding Issue

The following is an excerpt from a letter to school and county superintendents and district clerks from Superintendent Linda McCulloch:

“Unfortunately, the Office of Public Instruction does not have the resources for the 2002-2003 school year to pay for the statewide assessment. Regrettably, the legislature felt the need to pass that expense on to districts. We anticipate that the cost to schools will be \$6 per student in grades 4, 8, and 11. OPI will plan to bill school districts following the fall enrollment count in October 2002. The payment will be due to the Office of Public Instruction no later than March 1, 2003. OPI will then make one payment to Riverside after they have satisfactorily fulfilled their contract obligations. To pay for this expense, your district may use monies from the district general fund, the school flex fund, and the federal impact aid fund. During the 2001 legislative session, OPI successfully advocated to allow districts to use the school flex fund monies to pay for student assessment and evaluation (20-9-543, MCA).”

RFP for Criterion-Referenced Test Issued

In anticipation of the April 2002 timeline to select a criterion-referenced off-the shelf test for the Title I compliance agreement and the “No Child Left Behind” legislation, the Office of Public Instruction has written and issued a Request for Proposals. It is written to reflect the requirements of the federal laws with which we must comply in selecting and implementing an assessment system. Montana’s system, like all other states, must pass a federal peer review. Therefore, the RFP states that proposals must offer tests that comply with the requirements of several federal statutes. The entire RFP can be found online: <http://www.discoveringmontana.com/doa/ppd/ifbsrfps/RFP02-369J.pdf>. Proposals must be submitted by March 15, 2002.

For further information, contact:

Judy Snow

State Assessment Director

Montana Office of Public Instruction

PO Box 202501

Helena, MT 59620-2501

(406) 444-3656

jsnow@state.mt.us

Dates to Remember

Feb 25-March 8	Send FAXME forms for additional materials
March 4-week of	Grade 4 practice tests
March 11-29	Test window
March 18-April 8	Districts ship materials to Riverside for scoring
April 8	Final day for districts to ship materials to Riverside for scoring
April 8+	Inventory materials and place in secure storage.